

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 00137 01 OF 02 061853Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01
COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /134 W
-----061952Z 094741 /44

R 061755Z JAN 77
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2710
INFO ALL EC CAPTIALS 2947
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 0137

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC EFIS PLOS
SUBJECT: EC INTERIM FISHING QUOTAS FOR 1977

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 00137 01 OF 02 061853Z

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 12681, (B) EC BRUSSELS 12821, (C) EC
BRUSSELS 064, (D) EC BRUSSELS 12303 (ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COMMISSION HAS NOTIFIED INTERESTED
THIRD COUNTRIES OF THEIR INTERIM FISHING QUOTAS (IF ANY)
IN THE NEW 200 MILE FISHING ZONES OF THE MEMBER STATES IN
THE ATLANTIC AND THE NORTH SEA; THESE ARE BASED UPON DECI-

SIONS OF THE EC COUNCIL IN DECEMBER (REF D). CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE EXCLUDED, OTHERS RECEIVE REDUCED QUOTAS FOR THREE MONTHS, NORWAY AND THE FAROES CAN CONTINUE FISHING FOR 2-3 MONTHS, THE US AND CANADA CAN FISH FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR ON THE BASIS OF 1975 CATCHES, AND ICELAND'S STATUS IS LEFT UNDEFINED AND WILL BE TAKEN UP AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (JANUARY 18). COUNTRIES WERE NOTIFIED EVEN THOUGH THE COUNCIL REGULATION CONFIRMING THESE INTERIM QUOTAS, WHICH ARE ACCEPTED BY ALL MEMBER STATES, HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE TECHNIQUE. THE REGULATION IS BLOCKED BY THE UK DEMAND TO SUBDIVIDE THE CIEM FISHING ZONES BY NATIONALITY. A SPECIAL COREPER MEETING JANUARY 5 WAS UNABLE TO REESOLVE DIFFERENCES AND THE MATTER IS ALSO TO BE TAKEN UP AT THE NEXT EC COUNCIL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTAS. THE COUNCIL REGULATION, IN CONFORMITY WITH EARLIER EC COUNCIL DECISIONS (REF D), PROVIDES FOR THE FOLLOWING QUOTAS FOR JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 1977, IN SPECIFIED INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SEA EXPLORATION (CIEM) OR ICNAF ZONES AND FOR DESIGNATED STOCKS OF FISH:

POLAND - 3025 TONS (MACKEREL AND COLEY)

USSR - 38,474 TONS (SEVERAL VARIETIES)

GDR - 3395 TONS (HALIBUT AND COLEY)
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PAGE 03 EC BRU 00137 01 OF 02 061853Z

SPAIN - 33,200 TONS (HORSE MACKEREL, HAKE)

FINLAND - UNSPECIFIED (PRESUMABLY SMALL QUANTITY OF HERRING)

PORTUGAL - 375 TONS (COD IN ICNAF AREA)

SWEDEN - 3453 TONS (SPRAT, MACKEREL AND POSSIBLY HERRING AT A LATER DATE)

3. THE PROPOSED REGULATION PROVIDES FOR CONTINUED FISHING BY THE US AND CANADA IN MEMBER STATES' FISHING ZONES IN THE ATLANTIC AND THE NORTH SEA FOR ALL OF 1977. CATCHES ARE NOT TO EXCEED THOSE OF 1975. THE FULL TEXT OF THE PARAGRAPH IN THE PROPOSED REGULATION REGARDING THE US IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: CATCHES AUTHORIZED FOR THE US BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1977 AND UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1977 (IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA) PENDING CONCLUSION OF A FISHING AGREEMENT WITH

THE US, ARE FOR THE SAME SPECIES AS THOSE COUAGHT
DURING 1975. THE MONTHLY LEVEL SHOULD BE THE SAME
AS THAT RECORDED DURING 1975 SUBJECT TO THE EVENTUAL
SETTING OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES AND FISHING
QUOTAS FOR THESE SPECIES. END QUOTE.

4. THE PROPOSED REGULATION NOTES THAT BULGARIA, CUBA,
JAPAN AND ROMANIA HAVE ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE
DECEMBER 13 AND 20 DECEISION OF THE EC COUNCIL PRO-
HIBITING ALL FISHING ACTIVITY BY THEIR VESSELS IN THE
EXTENDED FISHING ZONES OF THE MEMBER STATES IN THE
ATLANTIC AND THE NORTH SEA.

5. ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE FAROES

WHILE NOT A PART OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION, THE
MEMBER STATES ARE ALSO ASKED TO "NOTE THEIR AGREEMENT"
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PAGE 04 EC BRU 00137 01 OF 02 061853Z

BY WRITTEN RPOCEDURE TO A DECLARATION WHICH IS TO BE
ADDED TO THE WRITTEN RECORD OF THE EEC COUNCIL. THIS
UNUSUAL PROCEDURE "RECALLS" THAT NORWAY AND THE
FAROES CAN CONTINUE TO FISH AFTER JANUARY 1 FOR "TWO
OR THREE" MONTHS IN THE NEW EC FISHING ZONE PENDING
CONCLUSION OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS. EC FISHERMEN
ARE ALSO TO CONTINUE TO FISH IN THE FISHING ZONES
OF NORWAY AND THE FAROE ISLANDS DURING THE SAME
PERIOD. CATCHES, WHICH ARE NOT LIMITED AS TO SPECIES
OR ZONES, DURING THIS PERIOD ARE TO BE DEDUCTED
FROM THE QUOTAS FINALLY ESTABLISHED FOR 1977.

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 00137 02 OF 02 061914Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 0137

6. THE SAME DECLARATION ALSO RECALLS THAT THE COUNCIL
WAS INFORMED ON DECEMBER 20 THAT NEGOTIALIONS BETWEEN
THE EC AND ICELAND ARE CONTINUING. THERE IS NO MEN-
TION OF INTERIM FISHING BY EITHER MEMBERSTATES OR
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 00137 02 OF 02 061914Z

ICELAND N EACH OTHERS FISHING ZONES AND THE DECLAR-
ATION NOTES THAT THE COUNCIL WILL REEXAMINE THE ICE-
LANDIC QUESTION AT ITS NEXT MEETING. THE UK HAS
APPARENTLY TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THE
QUESTION OF ICELAND FISHING IN THE EC "POND" WAS
LEFT IN ABEYANCE TO EXCLUDE IT FROM THE LIST OF
THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH WILL BE PERMITTED TO FISH IN
THE NEW BRITISH 200 MILE FISHING ZONE AFTER JANUARY 1.
THIS ACTION BY THE UK WAS PROTESTED BY BELGIUM AND TO
A LESSER EXTENT BY THE FRG WHICH FEARED THAT ICELAND
MIGHT RETAILIATE BY SUSPENDING FISHING BY THESE TWO
COUNTRIES IN ICELANDIC WATERS UNDER EXISTING BILATERAL
ARRANGMENTS. THE BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE PRESS SPOKES-
MAN, HOWEVER, TOLD THE PRESS ON JANUARY 5 THAT THERE
NOW APPEARS TO BE LITTLE GROUND FOR CONCERN SINCE
BELGIAN FISHERMEN ARE CONTINUING LHEIR FISHING
ACTIVITY IN ICELANDIC WATERS WHICH PROVIDES BELGIUM
ABOUT 6500 TONS OF FISH A YEAR. AN ICELANDIC MISSION
OFFICER TOLD US THAT WHILE UNHAPPY OVER THE UK EXCLU-

SION AND THE LACK OF ANY NOTIFICATION BY THE EC OF THE STATUS OF ICELANDIC FISHING AFTER JANUARY 1, ICELAND HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN BRITISH WATERS EXCEPT FOR SOME HERRING LATER IN THE SPRING; NEITHER THIS BAN, HE REMARKED, NOR THE THREAT OF THE REMOVAL ONCE MORE OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON EC IMPORTS OF ICELANDIC FISH ARE OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO INDUCE THE GOI TO BE FORTHCOMING TO UK FISHING INTERESTS IN THE FACE OF INTERNAL ICELANDIC PUBLIC OPPOSITION. HE NOTED THAT EC-GOI NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN AN EXPLORATORY STAGE AND THAT A PRELIMINARY WRITTEN DRAFT HAS NOT YET BEEN PROPOSED BY EITHER SIDE.

7. FISHERY MANAGEMENT

THE PROPOSED REGULATION STATES THAT THIRD COUNTRIES MUST "RESPECT THE MEASURES OF CONSERVATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 00137 02 OF 02 061914Z

AND CONTROL AND ANY OTHER CONDITIONS AND DISPOSITIONS REGULATING THE FISHING ACTIVITY" IN THE ATLANTIC AND NORTH SEA ZONES. THIRD-COUNTRY FISHING VESSELS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT SIGNED DECLARATIONS INDICATING THE QUANTITIES OF FISH CAUGHT BY SPECIES AND LOCATION. "MEMBER STATES CAN TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THESE DECLARATIONS" AND ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR FINDINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO THE COMMISSION. (COMMENT: THESE STIPULATIONS ARE REFLECTED IN THE NOTE VERBALES GIVEN TO THE US AND OTHER INTERESTED THIRD COUNTRIES (PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 7 OF REF C). AS MATTERS NOW STAND, PRIOR FISHING LICENSES WILL NOT BE REQUIRED UNDER THE INTERIM FISHING REGIME AND THAT THE REQUIRED EX POST FACTO REPORTING WILL ASSURE NECESSARY CONTROL.)

8. COUNCIL REGULATION

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED COUNCIL REGULATION WAS BLOCKED BY A UK REQUEST THAT THE CIEM ZONES IN WHICH INTERIM THIRD-COUNTRY FISHING IS AUTHORIZED SHOULD BE FURTHER SUBDIVIDED TO INDICATE IN WHOSE NATIONAL FISHING ZONES FISHING IS ACTUALLY TO TAKE PLACE. THE UK ARGUED THAT PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EC MECHANISM TO ASSURE FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF QUOTAS IN THE EC "POND" THE MEMBER STATES WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICING THEIR OWN ZONES NEED TO KNOW THE EXACT AMOUNTS OF FISH WHICH THIRD PARTIES CAN CAPTURE IN THEIR ZONES DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD. OTHER MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE UK REQUEST WILL SET A PRECEDENT OF NATIONAL MANAGEMENT OVER COASTAL

FISHING WATERS AND IS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE UK
AND IRELAND'S CLAIM FOR A VARIABLE 50- MILE EXCLUSIVE
COASTAL BAND. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH SOURCE,
FAILURE TO ADOPT THE REGULATION, WHICH IS NOW TO BE
CONSIDERED BY THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL OF
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PAGE 04 EC BRU 00137 02 OF 02 061914Z

FOREIGN MINISTERS JANUARY 18, IS OF LITTLE PRACTICAL
IMPORTANCE EXCEPT FOR THOSE MEMBERS (APPARENTLY IN-
CLUDING FRANCE AND BELGIUM) WHICH HAVE REPORTEDLY NOT
INCLUDED ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS IN THEIR STILL-
PENDING NATIONAL ACTIONS ESTABLISHING THE 200 MILE
FISHING ZONE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED:

THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING THE SUB-
STANCE OF PARAGRAPH 7 ABOVE TO THE ATTENTION OF
INTERESTED US FISHING COMPANIES, PARTICULARLY THAT AS MATTERS NOW
STAND FISHING PERMITS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED BUT THAT
FISHING CAPTAINS MUST SUBMIT COMPREHENSIVE RECORDS OF
ACTUAL CATCHES. HOWEVER, A MEETING OF EXPERTS IS
TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 10 TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE
ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES AND CONTROLS TO BE ADOPTED BY
MEMBER STATES. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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